



Monthly Newsletter

Pack 208

TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1926



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH

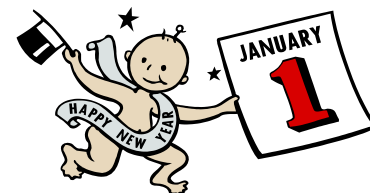
January 2014

www.swancreedistrict.org/Pack208

www.swancreedistrict.org/Troop208



The Leaders of Pack 208 and Troop 208 wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



2015 Pinewood Derby

Time to start thinking about what you want to drive for the Derby this year

If you need help the ANDERSONS will have their annual Pinewood Derby Clinic on January 3rd. All you will need to do is draw your car design on the block (when you get it this winter) and bring it in to the ANDERSONS for their help.

Pack 208 Pinewood Derby is February 21st at the EPIC Center. The race schedules will be posted in February. We'll have our Family race again too!

Swan Creek District Pinewood Derby is March 14th at a location to be determined. We'll provide that information at our Pack's Pinewood Derby to the winners after our Derby is over.

There will be no Troop meetings during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 23rd & 30th.

Winter Weekend @ Camp Miakonda

February 6th-8th, 2015 is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... Put it on the calendar guys and let's get ready to get COLD!

PSR - Summer Camp 2015

June 28th thru July 4th
Cody Campsite (back by Ecology)
Plenty of time to get ready for our current and future (the Webelos II) Boy Scouts to plan for a week of Camp.



God & Me Award Workshop



Congratulations to our young Scouts who have earned their GOD & ME Award this month. SUPER!



Cub Scouts will be changing

Starting in program year 2015 - 2016 the Cub Scout Program will have some changes made these change summaries will be posted on the Pack's website (link on home page, bottom right) for you.

Summary of why we're making changes:

www.swancreedistrict.org/Pack208/CS2015Changes.pdf

Summary of the Appended Requirements

www.swancreedistrict.org/Pack208/CS2015AppReq.pdf



2014 Construction City Bridge Builders - 2nd Place
EXCELLENT JOB guys! Our FUTURE ENGINEERS

Something Special out of History... Boy Scouts begin

www.history.com/this-day-in-history/boy-scouts-movement-begins

On January 24, 1908, the Boy Scouts movement begins in England with the publication of the first installment of Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*. The name Baden-Powell was already well known to many English boys, and thousands of them eagerly bought up the handbook. By the end of April, the serialization of *Scouting for Boys* was completed, and scores of impromptu Boy Scout troops had sprung up across Britain.



In 1900, Baden-Powell became a national hero in Britain for his 217-day defense of Mafeking in the South African War. Soon after, *Aids to Scouting*, a military field manual he had written for British soldiers in 1899, caught on with a younger audience. Boys loved the lessons on tracking and observation and organized elaborate games using the book. Hearing this, Baden-Powell decided to write a nonmilitary field manual for adolescents that would also emphasize the importance of morality and good deeds.

First, however, he decided to try out some of his ideas on an actual group of boys. On July 25, 1907, he took a diverse group of 21 adolescents to Brownsea Island in Dorsetshire where they set up camp for a fortnight. With the aid of other instructors, he taught the boys about camping, observation, deduction, woodcraft, boating, lifesaving, patriotism, and chivalry. Many of these lessons were learned through inventive games that were very popular with the boys. The first Boy Scouts meeting was a great success.

With the success of *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell set up a central Boy Scouts office, which registered new Scouts and designed a uniform. By the end of 1908, there were 60,000 Boy Scouts, and troops began springing up in British Commonwealth countries across the globe. In September 1909, the first national Boy Scout meeting was held at the Crystal Palace in London. Ten thousand Scouts showed up, including a group of uniformed girls who called themselves the Girl Scouts. In 1910, Baden-Powell organized the Girl Guides as a separate organization.

The American version of the Boy Scouts has its origins in an event that occurred in London in 1909. Chicago publisher William Boyce was lost in the fog when a Boy Scout came to his aid. After guiding Boyce to his destination, the boy refused a tip, explaining that as a Boy Scout he would not accept payment for doing a good deed. This anonymous gesture inspired Boyce to organize several regional U.S. youth organizations, specifically the Woodcraft Indians and the Sons of Daniel Boone, into the Boy Scouts of America. Incorporated on February 8, 1910, the movement soon spread throughout the country. In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts of America in Savannah, Georgia.

In 1916, Baden-Powell organized the Wolf Cubs, which caught on as the Cub Scouts in the United States, for boys under the age of 11. Four years later, the first international Boy Scout Jamboree was held in London, and Baden-Powell was acclaimed Chief Scout of the world. He died in 1941.

Scouting in the United Kingdom today:

Beavers (ages 6 to 8)

Cubs (ages 8 to 10 1/2)

Scouts (ages 10 1/2 to 14)

Explorers (ages 14 to 18)

Scout Network (ages 18 to 25)

14 to 18 you can be a Young Leader

18 and older - Adult Volunteer



<http://scouts.org.uk/home/>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Cub Scout Leader Training Classes

Cub Leader Training

January 3rd, 2015 Jadel Leadership Center
 March 25th, 2015 Jadel Leadership Center

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation

March 7th, 2015 Providence Lutheran Church

flyers available on our websites:

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208/training140720.htm

2014 - 2015 Walleye Boy Scout Adventures

January 24th, 2015 SLEEPOVER

February 21st, 2015

HOCKEY TIME !!



www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208/flyers/Walleye14.pdf



Bowling Green State University Scout
 Hockey Night vs Ferris State
 February 7th, 2015

Tickets are \$8.00 per person

call Kelsey @ 419.372.4019 or use the flyer:

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208/flyers/BGHockey15.pdf



Kamp KaBoooooom!!!

2015's Dad & Lad overnighter @ Miakonda
 Saturday, April 25th through Sunday, April

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208/flyers/MMDL15.pdf



Incredible Flying Machines!

2015's Mom & Me overnighter @ Miakonda
 Saturday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 3rd

Imagination Station

www.imaginationstationtoledo.org

Cub Scouts - Academic Pins & Belt Loops

Science Belt Loop & Pin = January 18 & March 15

Webelos

Scientist Badge = January 25th

Registration information & on line registration at:

<http://imaginationstationtoledo.org/content/educators/scout-programs/>

"Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book.
 Write a good one." — Brad Paisley

While we all celebrate Christmas this year



Let's all take a moment to remember...

all of those who are not home with their families at this time of the year; serving to protect us. Our military, both active and reserve, who are on duty standing the watch; especially those deployed overseas. Our emergency services men and women who spend these holidays on vigilant watch for us. May they all have a peaceful watch and come home safely to their families afterwards. A grateful "Thank you" for your dedication and *may God Bless you* all.

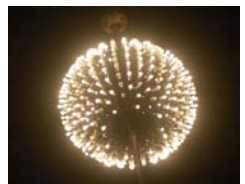


Next month the newsletter will feature the history behind the POW-MIA flag and white table seen at American Legion functions as well as other US Veteran functions.

Please keep these brave service members and their families in mind along with our active duty servicemen.

New Year's Eve Trivia

Probably the most famous tradition in the United States is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square, New York City, at 11:59 P.M. Thousands gather to watch the ball make its one-minute descent, arriving exactly at midnight. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood; the current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is 6 feet in diameter.



January Historical & Current Events

January 1st

- Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

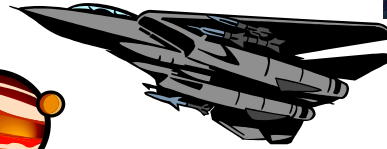


January 2nd

- United States & Canada reached free trade agreement, 1988

January 4th

- United States planes shot down two Libyan fighters, 1989



January 7th

- Galileo Galilei sighted four of Jupiter's moons., 1610



January 8th

- United States forces led by General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, ending the War of 1812, 1814

January 10th

- London's Metropolitan; World's first underground railway, opened to the public, 1863



January 11th

- Major League Baseball (American League) adopted the designated-hitter rule, 1973

January 12th

- The first public museum in United States (South Carolina) established, 1773

January 13th

- The Beatles US album Yellow Submarine was released, 1969



January 14th

- Henry Ford introduced assembly line, 1914
- NBC's "Today" show premiered, 1952

January 16th

- United States Civil Service was established, 1883
- "Hello Dolly!" opened on Broadway, 1964



January 17th

- Brink's Inc. reported robbery of \$2.8 million, 1950

January 20th

- Pearl Harbor leased by the United States from Hawaii for naval station, 1887

January 21st

- First atomic submarine, the Nautilus, was launched, 1954



January 23rd

- USS Pueblo seized by North Koreans, 1968

January 24th

- Gold was discovered in California, 1848
- First United States Congressional Medal of Honor awarded, 1894
- First Boy Scout troop organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell, 1908

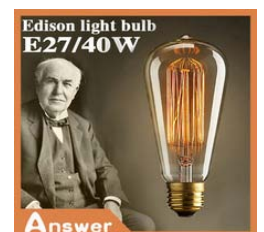


January 26th

- First American expeditionary force to go to Europe during WWII went ashore in Northern Ireland, 1942

January 27th

- Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp, 1880
- End of Military Draft announced, 1973



January 30th

- 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery was submitted, 1865
- General Robert E. Lee named general-in-chief of all Confederate armies, 1865



Sailor's Christmas



Twas the night before Christmas, the ship was out steaming,
 Sailors stood watch while others were dreaming.
 They lived in a crowd with racks tight and small,
 In a 80-man berthing, cramped one and all.
 I had come down the stack with presents to give,
 And to see inside just who might perhaps live.
 I looked all about, a strange sight did I see,
 No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
 No stockings were hung, shined boots close at hand,
 On the bulkhead hung pictures of a far distant land.
 They had medals and badges and awards of all kind,
 And a sober thought came into my mind.
 For this place was different, so dark and so dreary,
 I had found the house of a Sailor, once I saw clearly.
 A Sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone,
 Curled up in a rack and dreaming of home.
 The face was so gentle, the room squared away,
 This was the United States Sailor today.
 This was the hero I saw on TV,
 Defending our country so we could be free.
 I realized the families that I would visit this night,
 Owed their lives to these Sailors lay willing to fight.
 Soon round the world, the children would play,
 And grownups would celebrate on Christmas Day.
 They all enjoyed freedom each day of the year,
 Because of the Sailor, like the one lying here.
 I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
 On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.
 The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
 I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
 The Sailor awakened and I heard a calm voice,
 "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice."
 "Defending the seas all days of the year,
 So others may live and be free with no fear."
 I thought for a moment, what a difficult road,
 To live a life guided by honor and code.
 After all it's Christmas Eve and the ship's underway!
 But freedom isn't free and it's sailors who pay.
 The Sailor says to our country "be free and sleep tight,
 No harm will come, not on my watch and not on this night.
 The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep,
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
 I kept watch for hours, so silent, so still,
 I watched as the Sailor shivered from the night's cold chill.
 I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night,
 This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
 The Sailor rolled over and with a voice strong and sure,
 Commanded, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas, and All is Secure!"



<http://goatlocker.org/resources/nav/sailorsxmas.htm>



A Ranger Christmas



The night before Christmas
 I'm stuck here in hell,
 No stocking stuffers
 And no jingle bells.
 The jackfrost is nipping
 But there's no Christmas tree
 Lots of friends
 But no family.
 Half a million soldiers
 Fighting the terrorists
 For those who aren't forgotten
 For those sorely missed.
 The holidays are hard
 For those soldiers stuck over here
 So far away from loved ones
 It's hard to find your cup of cheer.
 But we know why we're here
 And we remember the reason
 Because without our freedom
 What good is a "season"?
 So tomorrow when you're celebrating
 And the family is all together
 Tell them not to worry
 And read them all my letter.
 Happy holidays to all
 I miss you for what it's worth,
 I'm on the other side of the world
 Fighting for peace on Earth.
 Please don't worry about me
 I promise I'm fine,
 And all of you are with me
 In heart, soul, and mind.
 So have a very merry Christmas
 And a happy New Year.
 Be safe and I love you -
 You're the reason I'm here.
 - Tom Wiggins
 Ranger Specialist E-4



Tom Wiggins is a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger who has been deployed three times to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. The 22-year-old from Hawthorne was in Afghanistan last Christmas, when he wrote this poem for family and friends.

There were many other similar Christmas Poems found on the internet which were almost identical for the US Air Force and the US Coast Guard. These stood out as the more unique ones found not to ignore the others.



"A Soldier's Christmas Poem"



The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
 I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
 My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
 My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
 Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
 Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
 The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
 Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
 My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
 Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
 In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
 So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.



The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
 But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
 Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
 Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
 My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
 And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
 Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
 A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.



A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
 Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
 Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
 Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
 "What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
 "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
 Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
 You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
 Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.
 To the window that danced with a warm fire's light,
 Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,
 I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
 "It's my duty to stand at the front of the line."



"That separates you from the darkest of times.
 No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
 I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
 My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"
 Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram
 always remembers."
 My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',
 And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
 I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
 But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
 The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
 I can live through the cold and the being alone,
 Away from my family, my house and my home.
 I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
 I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
 I can carry the weight of killing another,
 Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
 Who stand at the front against any and all,
 To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
 Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
 "But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
 "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
 It seems all too little for all that you've done,
 For being away from your wife and your son."
 Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
 "Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
 To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
 To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
 For when we come home, either standing or dead,
 To know you remember we fought and we bled.
 Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
 That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."



LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN
 30th Naval Construction Regiment
 OIC, Logistics Cell One
 Al Taqqadum, Iraq

